

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-1014

312 Lennox Avenue

East Towson, Baltimore County

1900-1915

Private

The single family dwelling at 310 Lennox Avenue was constructed between 1875 and 1890 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. The history of East Towson dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19th century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20th century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures. Many of the current homeowners and tenants living in the neighborhood are descendents of the first African-American residents.

This Gothic Revival-style wood frame dwelling is two-and-a-half-stories high, three bays wide and two bays deep with a cross gable roof featuring a turned cornice on the side gables. A shed-roof porch covers the full-width of the façade and is supported with turned wood posts and a continuous balustrade covered with asbestos shingles. The side passage entrance on the façade has a replacement one-leaf wood door with a single light. Each of the windows is 1/1 double-hung vinyl sash with narrow squared-edged wood surround. A single fixed light is found in both the steep cross gable on the façade and the west-side gable. The house stands on a mixture foundation of random rubble stone and brick with rock-faced concrete block patchwork. There have been several additions located in the angle of the ell and on the rear elevation. The addition in the ell is two stories high with a shed roof, and the rear addition is one story high with a shed roof and an exterior concrete block chimney. The entire house has been re-clad with asbestos shingles and the roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles.

Inventory No. BA- 1014

7. Description

Inventory No. BA- 1014

Condition

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> altered |

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This Gothic Revival-style wood frame dwelling located at 312 Lennox Avenue in East Towson, was constructed between 1875 and 1890. This single-family house is two-and-a-half-stories high, three bays wide and two bays deep with a cross gable roof featuring a turned cornice on the side gables. A shed-roof porch covers the full-width of the façade and is supported with turned wood posts and a continuous balustrade covered with asbestos shingles. The side passage entrance on the façade has a replacement one-leaf wood door with a single light. Each of the windows is 1/1 double-hung vinyl sash with narrow squared-edged wood surround. A single fixed light is found in both the steep cross gable on the façade and the west-side gable. The house stands on a mixture foundation of random rubble stone and brick with rock-faced concrete block patchwork. There have been several additions made to the house located in the angle of the ell and on the rear elevation. The addition in the ell is two stories high with a shed roof, and the rear addition is one story high with a shed roof and an exterior concrete block chimney. The entire house has been re-clad with asbestos shingles and the roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. There is a hedgerow and a wood fence at the front of the property.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA- 1014

| Period | Areas of Significance | Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> performing arts | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2000- | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> social history | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | | <input type="checkbox"/> maritime history | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: | |

Specific dates 1875 ca.-present **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1875-1890

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The house at 312 Lennox Avenue was constructed between 1875 and 1890 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. East Towson is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically the pre-Civil War development of an African-American neighborhood in a predominately white community. The history of this property dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19th century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20th century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures. Many of the current homeowners and tenants living in the neighborhood are descendents of the first African-American residents.

East Towson as a whole is representative of an important phase of architectural development in Baltimore County, illustrating the dilution of popular architectural styles to more efficiently meet the needs of the neighborhood, and the builders' untrained abilities to execute the fashionable ornamentation. Thus, East Towson provided lower cost housing in a more suburban neighborhood, rather than the urban setting their economic status typically perpetuated.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA- 1014

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .10 Acre
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name Towson

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The dwelling is located at 312 Lennox Avenue in East Towson in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. It has historically been associated with Tax Map 70A, Parcel 491 since its construction in the last quarter of the 19th century.

11. Form Prepared by

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------|------------------|
| name/title | K. Baynard, R. Weidlich, J. Bunting, Architectural Historians | | |
| organization | EHT Tracerics, Incorporated | date | November 5, 2001 |
| street & number | 1121 5th Street NW | telephone | 202.393.1199 |
| city or town | Washington | state | DC |

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

East Towson: Planimetric Data



Prepared by:
Baltimore County Office of Planning
401 Bosley Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204
June, 2001



Scale

1 inch = 200 feet

1:2400

100 0 100 200 Feet

Legend

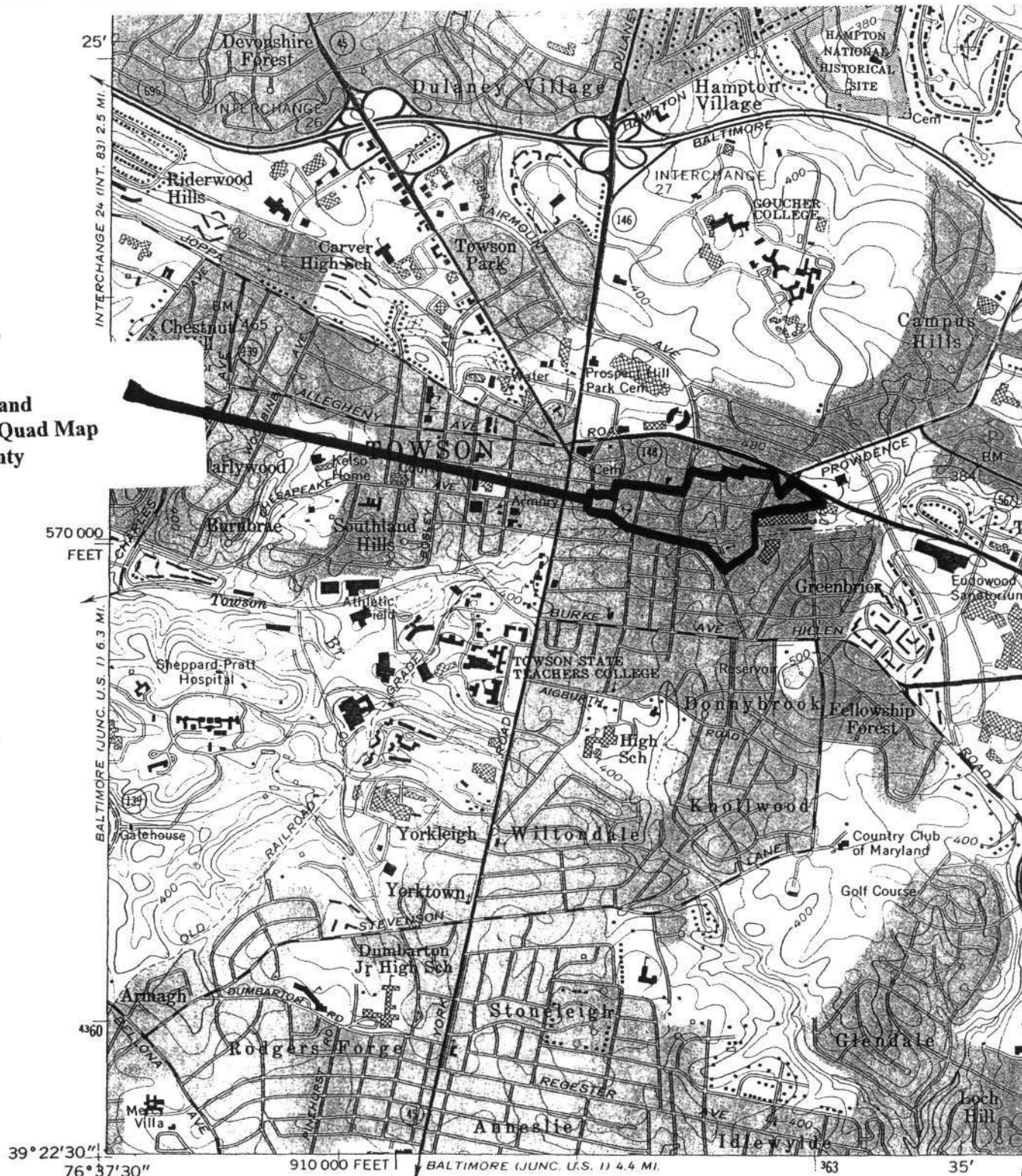
- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Paved Roads | Study Area Boundary | Hydrographic Features |
| Unpaved Roads | Buildings | Vegetation |
| Paved Parking / Driveways | | |

Data Sources:
Planimetric Data: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)
Parcel Boundaries: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)
Study Area: Baltimore County Office of Planning (1:2400)
Coordinate System:
Maryland State Plane: NAD83/91 Horizontal Datum
Elevations in Feet: NAVD88 Vertical Datum

Date of Data Capture: March 1996
Scale of Data Capture: 1" = 100'

BA-1014

East Towson
Towson, Maryland
Towson USGS Quad Map
Baltimore County



(BALTIMORE WEST)
5662 (SW)

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Maryland
Bureau of Control Surveys and Maps

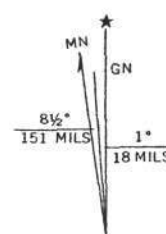
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
aerial photographs taken 1966 and 1974. This information not
field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



BA-1014

HOUSE, 312 LENNOX AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

MD-SHPD

VIEW LOOKING SOUTHEAST, NORTHWEST CORNER

1 of 3

TRACERIES, 10/2001



BA-1014

HOUSE, 312 LENNOX AVENUE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

MD-SHPD

VIEW LOOKING SOUTHWEST, NORTHEAST CORNER

2 of 3

TRACERIES, 10/2001



BA- 1014

HOUSE, 312 LENNOX AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

MD-SHPD

SOUTHWEST CORNER, VIEW LOOKING NORTHEAST

3 of 3

TRAILERIES, 10/2001

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Cannon House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
312 Lennox Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Towson

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Second

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Baltimore County

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☒ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Bernice Cannon

Telephone #: 823-5614

STREET & NUMBER
312 Lennox Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Towson

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21204

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Courts Bldg.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER
401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Towson

STATE
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

BA-1014 - 312 Lennox

c. 1905 - 1915

Like its neighbor 310 Lennox (BA-1013), this two-story frame house features a sharp cross-gable on its street-facing roof slope. The house is three bays wide by three rooms deep. A simple porch crosses the main facade.

7 DESCRIPTION

BA-1014

CONDITION☒ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☒ UNALTERED☐ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☐ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

312 Lennox Ave.

An outstanding feature of this side-hall single-parlor house is the southeast room, which ends in a bay window. The gable roof of the main house runs east-west, the gable roof of the southeast room runs perpendicular to this, and a two-story addition to the southwest has a shed roof. This addition houses a pantry and kitchen on the first floor, and the first floor of the bay-window room serves as a dining room. A semi-enclosed porch supported by turned posts runs across the north, or front, of the house. A modern one-room addition stands to the south.

An attractive mantel in the parlor features egg-and-dart moldings and curved supports, scrolls opening into featherings in side elevation, ending in clawed feet. The square newel post, scored vertically, is followed by turned balusters. The architraves feature simple beaded board moldings. The windows contain 2/1 sash.

A steep cross-gable lit by a small square window embellishes the north gable. On the first floor a transomed door is to the east while two windows light the parlor to the west. Two windows pierce the second floor facade. At the western side an exterior trap door leads to the cellar. A brick and shaped stone foundation supports the house. The house is covered with white asbestos shingles.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

BA-1014

PERIOD

☐ PREHISTORIC
☐ 1400-1499
☐ 1500-1599
☐ 1600-1699
☐ 1700-1799
☐ 1800-1899
☐ 1900-

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ ARCHITECTURE
☐ ART
☐ COMMERCE
☐ COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING
☐ CONSERVATION
☐ ECONOMICS
☐ EDUCATION
☐ ENGINEERING
☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
☐ INDUSTRY
☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
☐ LAW
☐ LITERATURE
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSIC
☐ PHILOSOPHY
☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION
☐ SCIENCE
☐ SCULPTURE
☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ THEATER
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES**BUILDER/ARCHITECT**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house was constructed around 1907. The Mason family has lived in this house since that time, passed down through inheritance from one generation to the other. The Mason family has been apart of E. Towson since the turn of the century.

The Bromley Atlas 1915 indicates that this structure existed. Prior to the construction of the house the land belonged to John Yellot (1907) and Adelaid Birchhead, 1889 and Benjamin Payne around the early and late 1850's to the mid 1870's

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marcus Pollock; M. Stinson, architect

ORGANIZATION

Committee to Save East Towson

DATE

6/30/77

STREET & NUMBER

600 W. Chesapeake Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

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The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



BA-1014
Cannon House
312 Lennox Ave.
Towson, Md.
north

Merry Stinson
1977